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11. WYOMING:

Requirements for next oil and gas supervisor may be lessened as job lingers open

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After months of searching for a new oil and gas supervisor, Wyoming lawmakers will consider easing the job requirements to attract more candidates.

A bill to be introduced will allow an unlicensed petroleum engineer or petroleum geologist to apply, provided the candidate has at least 10 years of relevant experience. Previously, the state had only sought licensed specialists.

The post was last held by Tom Doll, who resigned in June after facing criticism for suggesting people in the Pavillion gas field living with contaminated water were seeking to profit from their predicament (EnergyWire, June 15, 2012).

The Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission offered the post to a leading candidate in November after reviewing some 40 applications, but the person declined the bid. Since then, about half a dozen additional people have applied.

"We're in a wait-and-see stance at this point," said Commissioner Ryan Lance, who also directs the Office of State Lands and Investments. "If there's an application that comes in and we need to talk to them, I think we'll act" (AP/Fuel Fix, Jan. 8). -- BS

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